

REMARKS

Claims 23-26, 29-31, 34-42, and 44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-22 and 43 were previously cancelled, and claims 27, 28, 32, and 33 are cancelled herein. Claims 23, 26, 30, 31, 34-42, and 44 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Although Applicants disagree with the characterization of Applicants' claims, Applicants have amended claim 34 to more positively recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn. Regarding claim 1, Applicants note that claim 1 was previously cancelled.

Claims 23-26, 30-37, 41, 42, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly being anticipated by "Issues of Reserving Resources in Advance" to Wolf (hereinafter "Wolf"). Claims 27, 28, 38, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Wolf. Claims 29 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Wolf in view of RFC 2131 – Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (hereinafter "DHCP").

Applicants have amended claims 23 and 34 to recite at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Applicants note that Wolf assertedly discloses a method of making *in-advance* reservations having a start and stop time associated therewith, and extending, if necessary, the in-advance reservation. In contrast, Applicants' claims 23 and 34 recite limitations regarding *open-ended* reservations, which, until Applicants' invention, do not have a start-time and a stop-time. Embodiments of Applicants' invention as recited in claims 23 and 34 associate a start and

stop-time based upon the application or group of applications to the *open-ended reservations*.

This allows “[t]he open-ended reservation [to be] booked together with the in-advance reservations (4) between the start-time (1) and the stop-time (2) and is thereby also guaranteed the resources between said start-time (1) and said stop-time (2),” as explained in Applicants’ Specification. Applicants’ Specification, page 11, lines 22-24.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 23 and 34 be withdrawn. Claims 24-26 and 29-31 depend from and add further limitations to claim 23, and claims 35-42 and 44 depend from and add further limitations to claim 34. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Roger C. Knapp, Applicants’ Attorney, at 972-732-1001, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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